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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY FOR JUNE 16, 2005

This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for June 16, 2005.

Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

HURRIYET(CUKUROVA)/SABAH(GUNEY): The Mayor of Greater City of Gaziantep said that THY (Turkish Airlines) will resume its flights between Gaziantep and Istanbul on June 20. THY had halted its flights between Gaziantep and Istanbul three months ago reportedly because of the airport runway upgrading efforts in Gaziantep, a decision which has been seriously criticized by the people of Gaziantep to date.

BOLGE/SABAH(GUNEY): Tension was stirred when a group of people in Adana retaliated with anti-PKK slogans against a 30-person group called the "Democratic Free Women's Movement", attempting to make press announcement, chanting pro-PKK slogans and carrying posters of Abdullah Ocalan, reportedly to call for the end of the military operations (conducted against the terrorist organization PKK). Riot police arrived, tried to dissolve the disobeying mob, and a chase began. Some of the protestors reportedly threw stones at the police as they were being chased away and ran into the building where DEHAP (Democratic People's Party) and SDP (Socialist Democracy Party) Seyhan District Headquarters were located, continuing to throw stones from the roof of the building. One police officer and 3 protestors were injured.

OZGUR GUNDEM: The paper reports the Adana protest (at the second item of this summary) along with two other protest incidents in Mardin and Van. According to the paper, the police intervened and allegedly hit the women with truncheons in Adana when a group of women attempted to protest the isolation of Ocalan in Imrali prison. The protestors in Kiziltepe district of Mardin chanted slogans saying, "Shut down Imrali prison", "'Kurdish people are not alone", "Put an end to war and isolation". Democratic Free Women's Movement in Van staged similar protests in Van.

SABAH (GUNEY): Mehmet Agar, National President of DYP (True Path Party), will come to Adana today to hear about the problems of producers and farmers in the Ceyhan district and to pay visits to contacts in Adana.

OZGUR GUNDEM: Ten people, who were arrested before the Newruz celebrations on March 17 in Mersin and who were being prosecuted at the 7th Heavy Penalty Court in Adana on the charges of "being a member of the terrorist organization," were released.

OZGUR GUNDEM: The paper reports that 30 PKK prisoners in Adana Jail were transferred to another (unspecified) jail without sending prior notification to the prisoners' families.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

1. EKSPRES/BOLGE/SABAH(GUNEY): A group of farmers in Ceyhan district of Adana, in an attempt to protest the agricultural policies of the government, poured 2.5 tons of wheat into the Ceyhan river. Chairperson of the Ceyhan Chamber of Agriculture said that the farmers were not able to sell wheat even for 0.25 YTL (approximately 20 cents), reportedly a very poor return in exchange for the work of the producers. The protest of the farmers was organized by MHP (National Movement Party) Ceyhan Headquarters.

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